

SECRET

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LETTER TO EDITOR SEES
MOSCOW FURNITURE SITUATION AS INTOLERABLE

A letter to the editor of Pravda from workers of the Furniture Branch of the Central Univermag in Moscow offers the following criticism:

In 1950, 535,000 square meters of living space were made available to the inhabitants of Moscow; in 1951, 700,000 more square meters will be added. These increases, plus a 20-percent reduction in furniture prices, have greatly increased the demand for furniture.

Due to shortcomings in the Ministry of Paper and Woodworking Industry USSR and the Ministry of Local Industry RSFSR, the Central Univermag cannot comply with the consumer demand for wardrobes, chiffoniers, buffets, desks, and round dinner tables.

Insufficient quantities of a three-section wardrobe, made of oak, are brought to Moscow from Ivanovo and Shumerlya in Chuvash ASSR. A similar wardrobe was produced by Moscow Furniture Factory No 3 until June 1949, when it was taken out of production.

Round extension dinner tables of varnished oak are not manufactured in Moscow, nor are they brought in from other towns. Such a table was produced by Moscow Furniture Factory No 3 until June 1949, when it was taken out of production. Insufficient shipments of round extension dinner tables are sometimes received from Tallin and Riga. The Moscow consumer actually cannot buy either a round table or a square table. The quantity of square tables which is received from Moscow Woodworking Factory No 1 is insufficient.

Moscow Furniture Factory No 3 formerly produced good quality buffets. Recently, the "Furniture-Restoration" Artel has been turning out insufficient quantities of these buffets. Moscow Woodworking Factory No 1 makes the "Minia-ture" buffet, but due to its size and appearance, it is more fitted for the kitchen than for the living room. Consumers are offered small cabinets, which they do not like, instead of buffets.

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Until June 1949, Moscow Furniture Factory No 1 produced straight-back divans and ottomans. Then Moscow Woodworking Factory No 2 began to produce this furniture in very small quantities and at a higher price. Limited quantities of divans and ottomans are brought in from Ivanovo and Leningrad.

Open desks are not produced in Moscow; small quantities of them are received from Ivanovo and Leningrad. Many extremely necessary household articles such as shelves, bookshelves, hangers, screens, reed blinds, perambulators, children's chairs, full-length mirrors, and stools are not sold, produced, or brought into Moscow.

The situation with regard to kitchen furniture is very bad. Moscow Woodworking Factory No 6 has stopped producing kitchen cabinets, and produces comparatively few kitchen tables. The situation is no better as regards metal beds, especially children's beds. Those Moscow enterprises capable of producing them try to avoid it, and finding a child's bed in Moscow is a serious problem.

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